

**Santa Monica College Undocumented Ally Program**  
**COMMON TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

**AB540 Student**

A concept used in California since 2001. This legislation allowed an in-state tuition option for those who have attended a California high school for three years or more, graduated from a California high school or obtained a GED, and submitted an affidavit stating that the student meets the AB 540 requirements and that he/she is in the process of adjusting his/her immigration status or that he/she will do it as soon as he/she qualifies to do so

**Advanced Parole**

“If USCIS has decided to defer action in your case and you want to travel outside the United States, you must apply for advance parole by filing a Form I-131, Application for Travel Document and paying the applicable fee (\$360). USCIS will determine whether your purpose for international travel is justifiable based on the circumstances you describe in your request. Generally, USCIS will only grant advance parole if you are traveling for *humanitarian purposes, educational purposes, or employment purposes.*”  
([www.americasvoice.org](http://www.americasvoice.org))

**Assembly Bill 130 (AB 130)**

Allows students who meet AB 540 criteria to apply for and receive private scholarships for public colleges and universities.

**Assembly Bill 131 (AB 131)**

Allows students who meet AB 540 criteria to apply for and receive state-funded financial aid such as institutional grants, community college fee waivers, Cal Grants and Chafee Grant.

**Assembly Bill 540 (AB 540)**

California state law passed in 2001. It allows eligible students to pay in-state tuition at: CA Community Colleges, CA State Universities (CSUs), and Universities of CA (UCs). The requirements are: (a) attended a CA high school for a minimum of 3 years (b) graduated from a CA high school or attained the equivalent (GED or CA High School Proficiency Exam) (c) student who is without lawful immigration status must file an affidavit also known as Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request, with the college or university stating that he/she has filed an application to legalize his/her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he/she is eligible to do so. (All information stays confidential between you and the college/university).

**California Dream Act**

CA state law passed in 2011 and consists of three Assembly Bills, AB 540, AB 130 and AB 131. Together, these bills allow undocumented and nonresident documented students who meet certain provisions to be treated the same as resident students and pay the resident fees at public colleges and universities, apply for and receive private scholarships funded through public universities, state-administered financial aid, university grants, community college fee waivers and Cal Grants. Student must complete and submit the CA Dream Act Application between January and March 2. ([www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov))

**Cal Grant**

Money for college you don't have to pay back and there are two kinds—A and B. To qualify, you must meet the eligibility, financial requirements, and minimum GPA requirements. It can be used at any UC, CSU, independent, career, or technical school in CA. ([www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov))

**California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request**

Form to request in-state tuition. Student must also submit proof of high school attendance and graduation (or its equivalent) to the Admissions Office or Office of the Registrar at your institution.

### **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**

A policy (not law) from the Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced by the Obama Administration on June 15, 2012. It defers the removal of certain eligible undocumented youths and allow them to apply for work authorization if they are granted DACA. The requirements are: were under the age of 31 as of 06/15/2012; entered the United States before age 16; have continuously resided in the country since 06/15/2007, up to the present time; physical presence in the US on 6/15/12; entry without inspection or lawful immigration status expired as of 6/15/12; are currently in school, graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, obtained a GED certificate, or are an honorable discharged veteran of the Armed Forces/Coast Guard; have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, 3 or more other misdemeanors, and do not pose a threat to national security or public safety. ([www.ilrc.org](http://www.ilrc.org)) Approximately 800,000 individuals are DACA recipients nationwide, with approximately 200,000 residing in California. The Trump administration rescinded DACA on September 5, 2017, advising the United States Congress to establish legislation if they want to the program to continue.

### **DACAmented**

A person who has been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

### **Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)**

Proposed federal law that has not yet passed, first introduced in 2001 and then in 2009. It would legalize the status of undocumented youth. Proposed benefits have included lawful conditional residency that may lead to lawful permanent residency and citizenship.

### **DREAMer**

An American undocumented youth

### **Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)**

A retention program that provides support for low-income, educationally disadvantaged students throughout their entire SDSU experience. Qualifying California residents and AB 540 students receive support in their transition from high school to SDSU or community college to SDSU, academic advising and personal counseling, free tutoring, student-to-student mentoring, and an EOP grant (depending upon financial eligibility). AB540 students qualify to participate in EOP.

### **Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)**

A state funded program in the California Community Colleges designed to provide counseling, retention and support services to increase college enrollment for those individuals who have previously not considered college as an option. EOPS strives to alleviate the educational barriers that preclude many students from college attendance. AB540 students qualify to participate in EOPS.

### **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**

A measure of your family's financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by law. Your family's taxed and untaxed income, assets, benefits (i.e. unemployment, Social Security), family size, and the number of family members who will attend college during the year are all considered in the formula. Your EFC is NOT the amount of money your family will have to pay for college NOR is it the amount of financial aid you will receive, it is a number used by your school to calculate the amount of financial aid you are eligible to receive.

### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

The application used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a "need analysis" based on financial information, such as income, assets, and other household information, which you and your parents (if you are dependent) will be asked to provide. The results are electronically transmitted to the financial aid offices of the schools that you list on your application. ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov))

### **"Illegal Immigrant"**

DO NOT USE THIS TERM. The "i" word is technically incorrect and morally wrong. It is used in popular culture (news, communities, etc.). The terms "illegal immigrant" or "illegals" strip people of their dignity and are inaccurate because it is not possible for a **human being** to be "illegal." In 2013, the Associated Press decided to not use the term "illegal" to describe people and other news outlets and publishers have also changed the way they describe undocumented immigrants.

### **Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITN)**

A tax processing number issued by the Internal Revenue Service and are issued regardless of immigration status are used for federal tax reporting only, and are not intended to serve any other purpose. ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov))

### **Migrant**

A person who leaves his/her country of origin to seek residence in another country.

### **Mixed Status Families**

A household made up of individuals with different citizenship or immigration statuses. Nearly half of unauthorized immigrants live with a partner or children and "37% of all adult unauthorized immigrants were parents of children who are U.S. citizens." (Passel and Taylor 2010). Note: You may have a student who is a citizen but who has siblings and or parents who are undocumented; therefore issues of deportation and other concerns may negatively impact them as well.

### **Naturalization**

The conferring, by any means, of citizenship upon a person after birth.

### **Residency**

The correct residency classification for each student must be determined in order to assess appropriate fees. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Admissions Office of any changes in residency status. This includes changes from nonresident to resident and from resident to nonresident.

### **Senate Bill 1210 (SB 1210)**

Signed on Sept 27, 2014, the bill establishes the CA DREAM Loan program for students who meet certain criteria, regardless of their status.

### **Undocumented Immigrant**

A person born outside of the United States who lacks the right to be in the United States, having either entered without inspection (and not subsequently obtained any right to remain in the country) or stayed beyond the expiration date of a visa or other status. Due to geographical and socio-historical dynamics, Southern California has a majority of undocumented immigrants from Mexican origin; however, there are large numbers of Filipino/as, Korean and Central Americans who are undocumented immigrants.